State-wise details of Service Centres being maintained by HMT itself are given below:—

Punjab	1
Haryana	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Uttar Pradesh	2
Bihar	1
West Bengal	1
Assam	1
Andhra Pradesh	2
Orissa	1
Tamil Nadu	2
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	4
Gujarat	1
Rajasthan	1
Karnataka	2
New Delhi	2
Chandigarh	1
Total	28

In addition to these, there are 405 service outlets in different parts of the country maintained by HMT's authorised dealers. To facilitate better service and sale, HMT has plans to open new centres.

The following steps have been taken to increase production of HMT watches:—

(i) HMT has recently established a new watch factory at Ranibagh (U.P.) to manufacture 2 million watch component sets per annum.

(ii) The Watch factory at Bangalore is being modernised in a phased manner. This will also enhance its production capacity by 2 lakh watches per annum.

LPG Depots in the Capital

*177. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG gas depots in the capital;

(b) whether Government have made any survey to ascertain in how many of these LPG depots are situated in the midst of thickly populated residential areas;

(c) if so, what is the result of the survey in details;

(d) whether it is a fact that these gas depots are serious safety hazards because of having inadequate or practically no fire fighting equipment;

(e) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto and whether any steps have been taken to remove these LPG depots at a distance from the thickly populated residential areas; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) As on 1-3-86, there were 132 LPG godowns of LPG distributors in the Union Territory of Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Delhi Administration has undertaken a survey in this regard, which is currently in progress. (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Since the location of the LPG godowns is based on requisite approvals of the authorities concerned from the view points of safety, fire fighting arrangements and town planning, no steps are considered necessary for re-locating these godowns.

Pending cases and vacancies in the Madras High Court

*178. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending before the Madras High Court as on date;

(b) the number of vacancies to be field up in the Madras High Court as on date;

(c) the date on which each vacancy occurred;

(d) what steps have been proposed to be taken to dispose of the pending cases; and

(e) what steps have so far been taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) As per information received from the Registry of the Madras High Court 1,49,469 cases are pending as on 30-6-1985.

(b) and (c) As on 29-4-1986 there are five vacancies of Judges in Madras High Court which arose on the following dates:

Sl. No.	Dates
1	22-10-83
2	25-1-84
3	31-3-85
4	1-6-85
5	10-3-86

(d) Statement (see below) indicating the steps taken to reduce pendency in all High Courts which include the Madras High Court is laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The matter of filling up of the vacancies is engaging the attention of the Government in consultation with the Constitutional Authorities. All efforts are being made to fill up the vacancies as quickly as possible.

Statement

Steps taken from time to time to Pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Courts:

1. Elimination of arrears in all the Courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of State held on 31st August—1st September, 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commended to High Courts and State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (Vide Section 100A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 431 as on 1st May, 1986.

5. Apart from the above, certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:

(a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts;

(b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

(c) Dispensing with printing of records;

(d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under Certain Acts.

6. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and High Courts, these have been sent to them along with the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

7. The government have entrusted to the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of references are:

(a) the need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by:—

(i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;

(ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres;

(iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

(b) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding services tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working.

(c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the forums envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii).

(d) the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary.

(e) the training of judicial officers.

(f) the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice.

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms which the Government and the public sector understanding should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such undertakings.

(h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants.

(i) formation of an All India Judicial Service.

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

8. The Government have constituted an informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures. The implementation of the report is engaging the attention of the Government.

Portable Solar Power Plant

*179. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2797 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th December, 1985, and state:

(a) whether the operation and other tests of portable solar power plants developed by Indian and Soviet Scientists have since been examined; and

(b) if so, what is the possibility of their being put into commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Studies are still in progress. It has been decided in a recent review meeting of the concerned Scientists to instal one complete unit of the portable Solar power unit in India for thorough experimentation under actual field conditions, before finally arriving at conclusions regarding commercial production etc.

Public sector investment in Gujarat

*180. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Central public sector investment in Gujarat till date, the annual turnover of these undertakings, their profits and losses and their permanent and temporary employees;

(b) what is the new investment proposed in the public sector by the Central Government in Gujarat; and

(c) whether any proposal for encouraging new public sector by Gujarat Government has been approved?